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TAGS: PREL EAID LE MU
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON OMANI ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON

REF: A. STATE 183255
 1B. MUSCAT 1337
 1C. MUSCAT 1268

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

(C) In a meeting on November 26 with Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yousef bin-Alawi, the Ambassador stressed the importance of support for the government in Beirut and inquired about Omani assistance to Lebanon. Bin-Alawi confirmed that Oman had pledged USD 50 million for Lebanese reconstruction efforts and stated that this amount was separate from the value of relief supplies previously sent to Lebanon in the aftermath of Israeli military operations there. He continued that the Omani government did not plan to donate funds to the Lebanese government due to corruption concerns, but instead was conferring with Beirut on financial support for specific projects. (Note: There are press reports that Oman will help fund the construction of a Lebanese-Omani arts center in Beirut. It is unclear whether Oman's promise of USD 50 million will be used in part or in full for this project. End Note.)

GRAPPO